



BEFORE THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

**Advisory Opinion
No. 04-006**

A public employee wishes to volunteer as a certified mediator with a local non-profit organization that provides mediation and conflict resolution services. We perceive no conflict under § 19A-11, but the employee must recuse herself in any case where the County is a party.

Section 19A-11 prohibits a public employee from participating in a matter as a public employee under certain circumstances. For example, an employee cannot participate in any matter that affects, in a manner distinct from its effect on the public generally, any property or business in which the employee or a relative holds a certain threshold economic interest. Also, an employee cannot participate in any matter if the employee, or a relative, has a relationship with another party to the matter that could result in a conflict of interest for that employee.

The employee has not provided us with any facts suggesting that there is such a conflict in this case. Obviously, the employee cannot preside in any case where the County is a party.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

June 8, 2004

Elizabeth K. Kellar, Chair